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**PRESTATYN**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS**

**D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H., M.F.C.M., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**

AND

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**DAVID T. OWEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.**

FOR THE YEAR

**1972**



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PRESTATYN**



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**SWYDDOG IECHYD**

**Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS**

**D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H., M.F.C.M., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**

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**DAVID T. OWEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I,**

**AM**

**1972**

# PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE 1972-73

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Chairman. Councillor ANNE F. MacLEOD, C.C.

Coun. A. G. ANDERSON	Coun. P. L. ROBERTS
„ D. BAURLEY	„ E. A. ROYLE
„ G. R. GRAY	„ W. STOREY
„ G. E. HUGHES	„ P. W. TAYLOR
„ E. J. NEWBY, J.P.	„ O. H. WILLIAMS

Chairman of the Council: Councillor E. J. NEWBY, J.P.

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., M.F.C.M. L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

### Chief Public Health Inspector: Meat and Food Inspector:

D. T. OWEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

### Additional Public Health Inspector:

PEDR WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

### Clerk:

Mrs. H. GRIFFITH (Retired April)  
Mrs. A. WIKLEY (Appointed April)

### General Assistant:

G. FAIRCLIFFE (until March)  
I. JONES (Appointed March)

Public Health Department, ,  
Municipal Offices,  
Nant Hall Road,  
PRESTATYN.

Telephones:  
Offices: Prestatyn 2484 (4 lines)  
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C.P.H.I. (Private): Prestatyn 3698

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **OF THE**

### **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1972, and in view of the impending reorganisation of Local Government this is likely to be my last report to the present Council.

The population of the town increased by 420 during the year in spite of the fact that deaths exceeded births by 128. 166 births were registered during the year of which 19 were illegitimate, giving a local standardised birth rate of 15.3 per 1,000 population compared with the national average of 14.8. The illegitimate rate was 11% compared with the national average of 9% and one still-birth occurred giving a local stillbirth rate of 6 per 1,000 live births compared with the national average of 12. There were 4 infant deaths giving a local infant mortality rate of 24 per 1,000 live births compared with a national average of 17.

294 deaths were registered of which the largest proportion (73) were due to coronary artery disease and only 10 of these occurred below the age of 65. Cerebro vascular disease (stroke) accounted for 64 deaths of which 37 were in women over the age of 75. Cancer was responsible for 47 deaths of which the commonest site was cancer of the lung (14 deaths). Bronchitis and emphysema caused 15 deaths and there is no doubt that a reduction in the smoking of cigarettes would have a very marked effect upon the mortality rates of cancer, bronchitis and heart disease.

The Department of Health has issued through the medium of national newspapers a chart showing the tar content of various brands of cigarettes and it is to be hoped that smokers of the brands of cigarettes with the higher concentration of tar and nicotine will revert to the milder and less dangerous brands with the lower tar content, short of giving up the habit altogether.

Work proceeded during the year on the installation of plant for the fluoridation of the public supply to Prestatyn. It is hoped that the plant will be functioning in 1973. The levels of fluoride in the water supply will be carefully monitored after the commencement of fluoridation by the Water Authority and the District Council, and I am quite satisfied that this procedure is safe and will be beneficial in the long term for the children and later the adults of Prestatyn both in regard to the temporary and permanent teeth.

Thirty four cases of measles were notified during the year, also one case of scarlet fever, two cases of dysentery, two cases



of non-pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of pulmonary tuberculosis.

The majority of one year old babies are now protected against measles by immunization, but unfortunately most of the children over the age of 4 have not had the benefit of vaccination and 22 of the 34 children who developed measles were aged between 5 and 9 years. I would strongly urge parents who have children under the age of 10 who have not had measles to be immunized. It is a safe and comparatively ~~harmless~~ <sup>easy</sup> procedure and also free from after effects.

Generally speaking, the year passed off uneventfully from the infectious disease aspect and fortunately there was no repetition of the dysentery outbreak that occurred the previous year.

The main drainage scheme was completed during the year although a certain amount of additional work was necessary to rectify defects in the sewerage system. There remains, of course, the western area drainage scheme (Ffrith) and I earnestly hope that a start will be made on the scheme before the reorganisation of Local Government in 1974. If work is not commenced before 1974 there may be a delay in this scheme. This, of course, is no reflection on the new authorities that are now being formed, but any new authority is likely to take time before it decides on its priorities, and furthermore, sewage and water supplies are likely to become the responsibility of the new Regional Water Authority.

No new Council dwellings were built during the year, but there is need for additional accommodation for the elderly under the sheltered housing scheme and I hope the Council will look at this matter actively during the remaining life of the authority as there are a few small sites available in the Urban District that are owned by the Council.

I would like to express my gratitude to the voluntary workers in the town for their services, especially the provision of meals on wheels.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their support and active interest in the Department and my Council colleagues and the staff of the Health Department.

Mrs. H. Griffith, the secretary in the Health Department, retired early in the year and I would like to extend to her our wishes for a long and happy retirement.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. P. W. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Land area (exclusive of foreshore) ... ..	1,640 acres
Land area (inclusive of foreshore) ... ..	3,219 acres
Population at mid-year 1972 (Registrar General's estimate) ...	14,980
Population change compared with previous year (increase) ...	420
Total number of properties (end of 1972) ... ..	6,761
Rateable value of the Urban District at the end of 1972 ... ..	£729,648
Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£6,925
General Rate in £ ... ..	£1.12½

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

The town has become renowned as a locality for retirement, with a favourable climate and almost fog-free atmosphere.

The district has recently become popular with holidaymakers, both day trippers and residential, and miles of excellent sand and a safe-bathing beach contribute to the amenities of the town. There are no industries in the town, apart from catering for holiday-makers, but fortunately some employment is available for manual and clerical workers in Deeside industrial plants which are within daily travelling distance.

## VITAL STATISTICS

## Live Births :

Live Births—Male 76, Female 90 ... ..	166
Legitimate Live Births—Male 70, Female 77 ... ..	147
Illegitimate Live Births—Male 6, Female 13 ... ..	19
Local Illegitimacy rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	110
National Illegitimacy rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	90
Crude birth rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	11.1
Birth rate comparability factor ... ..	1.38
Birth rate standardised ... ..	15.3
National birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..	14.8

## Still Births:

Still births (total) ... ..	1
Legitimate still births (total) ... ..	1
Illegitimate still births (total) ... ..	—
Local still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ..	6
National still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ..	12

## Infant Mortality Rates:

Infant deaths under one year of age (total) ... ..	4
Legitimate infant deaths under one year of age (total) ... ..	4
Illegitimate infant deaths under one year of age (total) ... ..	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	24
National infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	27
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	—
Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal) ... ..	3
Legitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age ... ..	3
Illegitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age ... ..	—

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	18
National neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	12
Total peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under one week combined) ... ..	4
Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ..	24
National peri-natal mortality rate ... ..	22
Deaths in first week of life (early neo-natal period) ... ..	3
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	18
National early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	10
<b>Maternal mortality, including abortion:</b>	
Number of deaths ... ..	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... ..	—

#### DEATHS

Deaths—Male 133, Female 161 ... ..	294
Crude death rate per 1,000 population ... ..	19.6
Comparability factor ... ..	0.57
Death rate standardised per 1,000 population ... ..	11.2
National death rate for England and Wales ... ..	12.1

#### POPULATION CHANGES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

The following table shows the change in population due to migration:—

Year	Mid-year population: Registrar General's estimated figure	Population change during year	Change in population due to births and deaths only during year	Change in population due to migration
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1901 ... ..	1,261	—	—	—
1911 ... ..	2,036	—	—	—
1921 ... ..	4,085	—	—	—
1931 ... ..	4,511	—	—	—
1941 ... ..	10,030	—	—	—
1951 ... ..	8,809	—	—	—
1952 ... ..	8,553	—256	—76	—180
1953 ... ..	8,670	+117	—19	+136
1954 ... ..	9,210	+540	—35	+576
1955 ... ..	9,050	—160	—49	—111
1956 ... ..	9,210	+160	—43	+203
1957 ... ..	9,380	+170	—31	+201
1958 ... ..	9,550	+170	—24	+194
1959 ... ..	9,720	+170	—64	+234
1960 ... ..	10,020	+300	—49	+349
1961 ... ..	10,670	+650	—4	+654
1962 ... ..	11,170	+500	—60	+560
1963 ... ..	11,490	+320	—50	+370
1964 ... ..	12,070	+580	+9	+573
1965 ... ..	12,450	+380	—41	+421
1966 ... ..	12,850	+400	—57	+457
1967 ... ..	13,200	+350	—37	+387
1968 ... ..	13,430	+230	—87	+367
1969 ... ..	13,670	+240	—79	+319
1970 ... ..	14,080	+650	—100	+750
1971 ... ..	14,560	+480	—58	+538
1972 ... ..	14,980	+420	—128	+548

A minus sign in Column 4 indicates an excess of deaths over births.



## DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Cancer deaths														
Lung ... ..	5	8	3	10	4	7	2	6	8	11	20	9	8	14
Stomach ... ..	4	4	2	3	6	2	9	7	6	6	6	9	5	4
Breast... ..	4	1	3	3	4	2	4	3	6	2	5	4	9	2
Uterus ... ..	1	1	4	1	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	1	2
Leukaemia ...	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	2	3	3	2	2	2	—
Other Sites											24	30	34	25
Total all sites	39	29	26	36	38	29	40	47	36	39	58	57	59	47

## Coronary Heart Disease

The following chart shows the annual deaths from this disease in the Urban District over the past 14 years.

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Deaths ... ..	37	55	42	51	48	52	60	49	67	70	64	69	69	73

## INFANT MORTALITY

There were four infant deaths recorded. Details of three are given below:—

Sex and Age at Death	Cause of Death
Male—20 hours ... ..	Atelectasis and Prematurity.
Male—22 hours ... ..	Atelectasis and Prematurity.
Female—10 hours ... ..	Atelectasis and Prematurity.

One stillbirth, details as below:—

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
Female—30 weeks ... ..	Cord around neck.	Macerated.

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT IN RECENT YEARS

	Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population.	Number of local births: R.G.'s returns.	Local crude birth rate per 1,000 population.	Local adjusted rate.	National birth rate per 1,000 population.	Local deaths: R.G.'s returns.	Crude death rate per 1,000 population.	Adjusted local rate per 1,000 population.	National death rate per 1,000 population.	Infant deaths under 1 year of age.	Local infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	National infant mortality rate.
1911	2,036	25	12.5	—	23.8	30	14.2	—	13.9	2	25.0	—
1921	4,085	30	10.1	—	—	32	10.8	—	—	1	33.0	—
1931	4,511	60	14.0	—	15.8	46	10.76	—	12.3	4	66.0	—
1941	10,030	132	13.2	—	14.2	135	13.5	—	12.9	7	53.4	66.0
1951	8,809	91	10.4	—	15.5	173	19.8	12.9	12.5	4	44.0	29.6
1952	8,553	94	10.9	—	15.3	170	19.9	12.9	11.3	3	31.9	27.6
1953	8,670	108	12.4	14.5	15.5	127	14.6	9.5	11.4	1	9.3	26.8
1954	9,210	98	11.0	13.6	15.2	134	15.1	9.5	11.3	—	—	25.5
1955	9,050	99	10.9	13.5	15.0	148	16.4	10.3	11.7	4	40.2	24.9
1956	9,210	104	11.3	14.0	15.7	147	15.9	10.9	11.7	2	19.2	23.8
1957	9,380	124	13.0	16.2	16.1	155	16.5	11.2	11.5	2	16.1	23.0
1958	9,550	143	15.0	18.4	16.4	167	17.5	11.6	11.7	1	7.0	22.5
1959	9,720	127	12.03	13.35	16.5	181	18.6	14.1	11.6	6	51.28	22.0
1960	10,020	134	13.4	14.84	17.1	183	18.3	13.9	11.5	1	6.0	21.7
1961	10,750	172	16.4	17.06	17.4	176	16.3	13.4	12.0	4	23.3	21.4
1962	11,170	144	12.9	13.3	18.0	204	18.3	15.3	11.9	3	20.8	21.6
1963	11,490	155	13.4	17.4	18.2	205	17.8	11.3	12.2	2	12.9	20.9
1964	12,070	201	16.4	23.8	18.4	192	15.8	9	11.3	6	30	20
1965	12,450	191	15.3	22.1	18.0	232	18.6	10.2	11.5	5	26	19
1966	12,850	175	13.6	19.7	17.7	232	18.0	10.1	11.7	2	11.3	19
1967	13,200	189	14.3	21.1	17.2	226	17.1	9.1	11.2	3	16	18.3
1968	13,430	178	13.3	19.7	16.9	265	19.7	10.4	11.8	3	16	18.0
1969	13,670	169	12.4	18.4	18.4	248	18.1	9.6	11.9	1	6	9.0
1970	14,080	168	11.9	18.3	16.0	268	19.0	9.9	11.7	2	12	18.0
1971	14,560	190	13.0	20.0	16.0	248	17.0	8.8	11.6	2	11	18.0
1972	14,980	166	11.1	15.3	14.8	294	19.6	11.2	12.1	4	24	17



CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	AGE IN YEARS											Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
B46(5) Other diseases of Nervous System	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	16	14
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	24	6
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	12
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	9	9
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	37	7
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B31 Influenza	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B32 Pneumonia	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	5	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B33(2) Asthma	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—





# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table shown below indicates the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases that occurred during 1972:

Disease	At all ages	Under 1 year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—44	45—64	Over 65	Cases admitted to hospital
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	—	1	—	6	3	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	34	1	4	3	22	3	1	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid and Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

Brucellosis is not a notifiable disease and under the 1968 public health regulations pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia and erysipelas have been deleted, and acute encephalitis, amoebic dysentery, tetanus, anthrax, leprosy, leptospirosis, malaria, yellow fever and smallpox added.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The year passed uneventfully from the infectious disease aspect and fortunately there was no repetition of the large dysentery outbreak that took place the previous year. Measles featured as the predominant infectious disease and if the immunization index (percentage of children immunised in the population) of children under the age of 10 could be raised to 90% then there would be a reasonable chance that the incidence of the disease could fall dramatically.

The Health Inspectors made a large number of routine calls during the year on food premises and holiday camps in the town, and it cannot be too strongly emphasized that most of the food poisoning occurring in the United Kingdom today largely arises from meat and meat products and the commonest causes are meat pies, sausages and chickens.

It is very important that all frozen foods, especially frozen chickens, turkeys, etc., are thoroughly thawed out first before adequately cooking, as it must be assumed that a small proportion of these birds have a degree of salmonella infection.

It has become common practice nowadays during the summer months to provide cold buffets in country inns, hotels, etc., and these cold buffets, of course, involve cold meats, hams, chicken portions, which are often prepared some time before consumption. It is vital that these foods are consumed quickly and not allowed to be kept at room temperature for long periods of time, otherwise food poisoning will arise.

Lectures on food hygiene were given to Holiday Camp catering and kitchen staff to encourage seasonal kitchen staff to maintain a very high standard of food hygiene and reduce the risk of food poisoning where mass catering is involved.

TABLE SHOWING TREND OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN THE URBAN  
DISTRICT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	6	5	12	3	2	4	5	3	12	10
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	9	12	9	1	21	—	1	2	1	—
Measles ... ..	111	41	88	52	97	77	114	5	153	6	34
Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	4	2	2	3	2	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	*500	8	—	5	3	5	3	50	6	1
Dysentery ... ..	2	2	—	5	24	9	1	—	6	48	2
Polioimyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	—	6	4	3	1	1	1	—	3	1	1
Tuberculosis Non-respiratory	—	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	2

\* Suspected

# **TUBERCULOSIS 1972**

Report of Dr. Morrison of work at Rhyl Chest Clinic for 1972.

No. of New Cases and Contacts attending Clinic during the year ...	445
No. of New Cases from Prestatyn attending Rhyl Clinic ... ..	1
No. of transfers in ... ..	None

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified. Close co-operation is maintained between the district, county and hospital authorities, as all have responsibilities in the treatment and after care of tuberculosis sufferers.

Most county district health authorities maintain a tuberculosis register of all persons who are suffering or recently have suffered from the disease.

Details of the local health department register are as follows:

Pulmonary Cases ... ..	Males 6 ... ..	Females: 2
Non-Pulmonary Cases ... ..	Males: 2 ... ..	Females: 2

## **PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946**

The following services are the responsibility of the Flintshire County Council, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer, Dr. G. W. Roberts, for allowing me to give full details of the following services available locally :-

### **SECTION 22 - CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN CHILD WELFARE CENTRES**

There is one Clinic in Prestatyn which is situated in Kings Avenue, and Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Friday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. A Medical Officer attends every first and third Friday.

### **CERVICAL SMEARS**

#### **(FOR DETECTION OF CANCER OF NECK OF WOMB)**

Cervical smear tests can be arranged for women by appointment at Mercier House, Russell Road, Rhyl; also at the Central Surgery, Prestatyn, on alternate Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. A lady doctor is in attendance.

### **FAMILY PLANNING**

Family Planning facilities are available at the Clinic at Ffordd-las, Rhyl; also at the Clinic, Kings Avenue, Prestatyn, every Thursday morning, 10 to 11.30 a.m. In each instance a lady doctor is in attendance.

### **WELFARE FOODS**

Distribution of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Vitamin Tablets) is carried out by the Women's Voluntary Service, Local Branch, on behalf of the County Council.

### **DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS**

This is arranged at the County Council Clinics in the area and is carried out by the Dental Officers employed by the County Council. Treatment is arranged free during the ante-natal and post-natal periods up to one year after the birth of the child. It is regrettable that more mothers do not take advantage of these facilities.



### SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY SERVICES

There are four midwives who are also trained district sisters attached to general practitioners in the town and these nurses carry out ante-natal care of mothers under the general direction of the family doctors.

### MOTHELCRAFT

Expectant mothers may arrange by appointment to attend Prestatyn Clinic every Monday afternoon for mothercraft lectures and demonstrations which are given by local clinic nursing staff.

### SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITORS

There are four health visitors and two school nurses based in the town and they are responsible for giving advice to families of all ages with special reference to the young and the very old. Their duties have increased of late due to the larger numbers of old people living in the town. District Nurses have now been assigned to practitioners in the town to assist them in their work.

### SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the duties of the midwife are shared with those of the district nurse in the area, and the district nursing aspect of the work is increasing in relation to the midwifery side which is diminishing because of the increasing proportion of Hospital confinements in the area. Home helps are engaged in the town mainly on a part-time basis, and this service is a most valuable and important development of local authority services.

### SECTION 26—IMMUNISATION

#### DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS & POLIOMYELITIS

Immunization, which consists of a course of 3 injections and 3 oral doses of polio vaccine, is given to babies between the fourth and tenth month of life.

A booster dose is given at school entry.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

All 13 year old children are eligible for immunization against the disease subject to parental consent. Protection is given by an injection of live attenuated tubercule bacilli (B.C.G.).

## MEASLES

Vaccinations are carried out routinely on all one year old babies whose parents have granted consent. This is also available for older children up to the age of seven years who have not had the disease. Vaccination consists of one injection and there are few adverse reactions.

## GERMAN MEASLES

Vaccination is now available for girls between 11 and 14 years and for women of child bearing age who have not had the disease. If a woman is pregnant and suffers from German Measles in the first three months of pregnancy, there is a 30% chance of serious congenital defects occurring in the baby. Vaccination can be given by the patient's General Practitioner, but the woman should avoid becoming pregnant for two months after the injection.

## SECTION 27—AMBULANCES

The ambulance service is radio-controlled and administered from the headquarters at Mold.

## SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS AND AFTER CARE LOAN OF EQUIPMENT

The County Council loan equipment to handicapped persons to assist rehabilitation. Arrangements are in force whereby persons may also hire medical equipment from the local British Red Cross Organisation at a very small fee, and enquiries are directed to Red Cross Headquarters at Victoria Ave. between 3 p.m. & 4.30 p.m. This is a most valuable service provided by this wonderful voluntary organisation and they are to be highly commended on their efforts.

## CHIROPODY

Facilities are available for Old Age Pensioners and handicapped persons to attend, by appointment, at the Prestatyn Clinic. Applications are dealt with by the County Health Department. A small fee is charged and the clinics are held on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday afternoons of each month.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment, which is free and confidential, is available at the following clinics:-

H.M. STANLEY HOSPITAL, ST. ASAPH.

Males and Females—5.30 to 7 p.m. (Tuesdays).

CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.

Males Wednesdays, 5—7 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Females—Mondays, 5—7 p.m.. Thursdays, 5—7 p.m.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBNORMALITY

This is an expanding field of medical care, and the after-care of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals is the responsibility of the County Council Social Services Department.

Children of school age, who are mentally retarded and not suitable for education in ordinary schools are admitted to the Special School at Rhuddlan for sub-normal children. For those children over the age of 6 years who are educationally subnormal, special educational provision is now made at a new day school in Rhyl (Ysgol Glan Morfa), where the classes are limited to a maximum of 15 pupils. Children can remain at this school until they are 16.

## WELFARE SERVICES

Homes are provided by the County Council for the admission of aged and handicapped persons who are unable to look after themselves adequately in their own homes. Two such homes are situated in Prestatyn, i.e. Park House and Carr Holme; and a new home, Llys Nant, was opened in 1970.

## SECTION 47—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

This section conveys powers to District Councils to remove persons who are "aged, infirm or suffering from grave chronic diseases and are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to look after themselves and are not receiving adequate care and attention from others."

During the year frequent instances of people requiring care and assistance were brought to the notice of the health department and the majority of cases were admitted to homes or hospital and it is pleasing to note that legal action was not necessary.

## METEOROLOGY

Full details of climatic conditions during the year in Prestatyn are given at the end of Mr. Owen's Report, but Prestatyn is fortunate in having a very equable dry climate and free from fog. It is particularly suitable for persons who are suffering from respiratory diseases.

## SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES

There is no licensed slaughter house in Prestatyn.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The number of properties connected to the main drainage system is 6,834.

The main drainage scheme was completed at the end of 1971 and recent bacteriological tests of sea water show that the new outfall has reduced the pollution along the shore now to one tenth of the previous level. All that now remains to be achieved is the construction of the Western Area sewerage scheme (Ffrith Area).

Number of premises not on main drainage:—

### Septic Tanks

Precast Concrete,

2 houses adjacent to Nant Hall Hotel — possibly into 1 tank.

3 houses — on Hillside.

1 Farm — Mid Nant.

1 Farm — Nant Mill.

1 Farm — Llys.

3 properties at Bryniau.

2 properties at Quarry Road, Meliden.

3 Cottages, Tan-y-Bryn — 1 tank.

2 houses Ffordd Penrhwylyfa — 1 tank.

1 house — 112 Fforddisa.

6 properties Pwll-y-Bont — various forms of septic and settling tanks.

1 house — Princes Avenue.

### Cesspool

1 bungalow — Pwll-y-Bont.

### Buckets

1 Y Bwthyn — emptied by L.A.

1 Pwll-y-Bont — emptied by L.A.

1 Pwll-y-Bont — chemical closet.

1 or 2 Quarry Road — chemical closets.

## PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year samples were taken regularly from the Swimming Pools and were generally satisfactory. Full details in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The local Public Health Laboratory is situated at Conway, and Dr. Kingsley Smith, the Director, and his Deputy, Dr. Griffiths, carry out the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from the Urban District. They have been most co-operative and my gratitude is extended to them for their advice and help throughout the year.



## WATER SUPPLY

I list below a report on a sample of water submitted during the year for chemical analysis:—

REPORT upon the analysis of one sample of water, received on  
6th December, 1972.

Sample marked Treated Water, Treacastell.

### ANALYSIS:

Appearance ... ..	Clear & Colourless
Odour ... ..	Nil
Reaction, pH ... ..	7.1
Colour (Hazen Units) ... ..	less than 5
	- parts per million -
Total Solids ... ..	311
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia ... ..	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia ... ..	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites ... ..	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates ... ..	0.6
Chlorides, as Cl ... ..	25
Oxygen( absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C ... ..	0.5
Total hardness ... ..	245
Temporary hardness ... ..	170
Permanent hardness ... ..	75
Alkalinity ... ..	170
Total residual chlorine ... ..	Nil
Free available chlorine ... ..	Nil
Potassium, as K ... ..	1.9
Anionic synthetic detergents ... ..	—
Manganese, as Mn ... ..	—
Cyanides and thiocyanates ... ..	—
Poisonous metals ... ..	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	28

### OPINION:

The chemical condition of the water is satisfactory.

There is an adequate supply of water to the vast majority of the dwellings in the town. No dwelling is without a water supply and there are no stand pipes. Water is obtained from Ffynon Asaph at Dyserth, augmented in the summer by the Mid Nant Supply. All water sources are filtered and chlorinated.

## LEAD

Considerable national interest was aroused during the year in regard to lead contamination of the environment which followed the poisoning of a few children in London who were living near a factory emitting lead fumes, and also workers in a smelting works using lead in the Bristol area.



Circulars were issued by the Department of Health to Local Authorities asking them to be vigilant and in this context I am pleased to say there are no smelting works in the area although Prestatyn has been the site of extensive lead mining in the past and there are lead tailings in the Meliden and Bryniau area and near the Nant Halj Hotel.

Samples of soil were taken from a village close to Prestatyn and high levels of lead were found in the soil, but the examination of grass, beetroot, lettuce, cabbages, etc., showed no uptake of lead and in fact the average content of lead in the garden produce was quite low. The water in the streams flowing from the village where there are extensive lead tailings, is almost free of lead and I do not think there is any risk at all of lead poisoning from consumption of vegetables, grass and dairy produce from areas where lead has been mined. The lead in the tailings is comparatively inert and is unlikely to be absorbed into the body. The greatest danger, of course, is airborne lead emissions and the risks locally in this aspect are extremely small. Investigations were made into the local lead content of the water in dwellings in the town where there was a lead service pipe. Samples were taken initially after overnight standing and later during the normal course of the day and the results are as follows:—

Nine samples taken on overnight standing — Results of analysis showed eight samples had less than 0.1 ppm (0.1 mgm. per litre).

Four samples taken during the day from the same taps — results showed that all were below 0.1 ppm.

The World Health Organization standard for the maximum permissible level of lead in public water supplies is 0.1 ppm.

I do feel that it is wise to run the tap for a short time first thing in the morning where there is a lead service pipe in the dwelling, just as a safeguard. The human body can, of course, tolerate metals in small quantities, but nobody really knows the toxic levels of the metals in the body and I have seen the maximum permissible levels of metals in food, water, milk, etc., vary enormously over the last twenty years.

### MILK SUPPLY

The sampling of milk for submission for bacteriological and chemical analysis is the responsibility of the County Council, and details are given in Mr. H. Roberts' Report (County Public Health Inspector) of the number of samples of milk taken and the results thereof.

I am pleased to say it was not necessary to issue any pasteurisation orders on milk unfit for consumption but, nevertheless, it is necessary to take regular samples to ensure a clean milk supply.

## CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

I have visited the camping sites at the eastern end of the town for many years and I am very pleased to note that there had been a recent improvement in the sanitary arrangements, due to the provision of extra toilets. I hope that these extra facilities will eliminate the nuisances that have arisen in the past.

## SMOKE CONTROL

There has been increasing emphasis nationally on the control of atmospheric pollution during the past few years. It is becoming very evident that there is a strong link between lung cancer and chronic bronchitis and pollution of the atmosphere, whether it be from cigarette smoke, petrol fumes or combustion of coal. Prestatyn fortunately, enjoys a fairly clean atmosphere, due to its location, but I urge householders to burn smokeless fuels or convert to gas, oil or electricity to reduce atmospheric pollution.

## HOUSING

During 1972 the extent of new property constructed is shown below:—

The number of private dwellings built in the town was ... .. 170

The number of Council properties built in the town was' ... .. Nil

There has been a great expansion in the private speculative building in the town during the past few years and it appears that the present trend is likely to be continued.

Since 1948 the Council have built 336 houses, bungalows and flats and the table shown below indicates the yearly totals of property constructed in the town:—

Year	New Council property	New Private property	Total
1972 ... ..	—	170	170
1971 ... ..	41	133	174
1970 ... ..	—	138	138
1969 ... ..	33	157	190
1968 ... ..	—	164	164
1967 ... ..	—	171	171
1966 ... ..	—	210	210
1965 ... ..	16	257	273
1964 ... ..	—	239	239
1963 ... ..	12	176	188
1962 ... ..	8	251	259
1961 ... ..	4	272	276
1960 ... ..	—	247	247
1959 ... ..	4	182	186
1958 ... ..	22	68	90
1957 ... ..	10	79	89
1956 ... ..	14	90	104
1955 ... ..	—	76	76
1954 ... ..	11	77	88
1953 ... ..	19	62	81
1952 ... ..	42	10	52
1951 ... ..	2	7	9
1950 ... ..	40	3	43
1949 ... ..	31	10	41
1948 ... ..	60	—	60

**TABLE SHOWING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN  
OVER THE PAST YEARS**

Year	Population	No. of properties	No. of persons per property	Rateable value	Product of 1d rate (1p since 1971)
1911 ... ..	2,036 ...	532 ...	3.8 ...	— ...	—
1921 ... ..	*4,085 ...	770 ...	5.3 ...	£22,625 ...	£81
1931 ... ..	4,511 ...	1,579 ...	2.9 ...	£43,310 ...	£163
1941 ... ..	‡10,030 ...	2,750 ...	3.6 ...	£74,731 ...	£299
1951 ... ..	8,809 ...	3,536 ...	2.5 ...	£82,188 ...	£325
1961 ... ..	10,670 ..	5,034 ...	2.0 ...	£166,284 ...	£668
1962 ... ..	11,170 ...	5,285 ...	2.0 ...	£176,590 ...	£706
1963 ... ..	11,490 ...	5,395 ...	2.0 ...	†£480,219 ...	£1,896
1964 ... ..	12,070 ...	5,633 ...	2.0 ...	£500,583 ...	£1,970
1965 ... ..	12,450 ..	5,906 ...	2.0 ...	£529,280 ...	£2,065
1966 ... ..	12,850 ...	6,116 ...	2.1 ...	£555,546 ...	£2,116
1967 ... ..	13,200 ...	6,287 ...	2.1 ...	£580,042 ...	£2,194
1968 ... ..	13,430 ...	6,604 ...	2.1 ...	£598,142 ...	£2,310
1969 ... ..	13,670 ...	6,794 ...	2.0 ...	£610,826 ...	£2,370
1970 ... ..	14,080 ...	5,894 ...	2.4 ...	£613,069 ...	£2,442
1971 ... ..	14,560 ...	6,068 ...	2.4 ...	£663,737 ...	£6,600
1972 ... ..	14,980 ...	6,238 ...	2.4 ...	£729,648 ...	£6,925

\*Uncorrected figure. Corrected—2,946, which gives a figure of 3.8 persons per house.

‡ This abnormally high figure was due to war-time reception of evacuees

† The increase in rateable value is due to re-assessment.

The above table shows the improvement in overcrowding that has taken place in the town especially in the past thirty years.

#### HOUSING AMENITIES

Percentage of dwellings lacking amenities in 1971 in England and Wales.

Water closet inside dwelling ... ..	11.9%
Fixed Bath ... ..	9.5%
Washbasin ... ..	11.9%
Sink ... ..	0.5%
Dwellings with ALL these Amenities ... ..	83.2%

#### HOUSING STANDARDS IN PRESTATYN

Extracts from the 1961 Census by courtesy of the Registrar General.

92.78% of all dwellings had exclusive use of bath, W.C., cold and hot water taps and only 2.23% lacked a W.C. and 1.16% lacked a cold water tap.

EXTRACTS FROM 1971 (CENSUS RETURNS) REGISTRAR GENERAL  
PRESTATYN  
PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS OR UNITS OF ACCOMMODATION  
LACKING AMENITIES

	No hot water supply	No fixed bath	Inside W.C. Exclusive use of	No Flush W.C.	With ex'sive use of Hot water, fixed bath, Inside W.C.
Total tenures ... .. 5615	1.2%	1.5%	96.8%	0.2%	95.7%
Owner Occupier ... 4380	0.5%	0.7%	99.1%	0.1%	98.4%
Council dwellings 545	0.9%	0.9%	98.2%	—	97.2%
Rented unfurnished 480	6.3%	7.3%	86.2%	—	83.3%
Rented furnished .. 195	5.1%	7.7%	69.0%	2.6%	64.1%
Not stated ... .. 10	—	—	100.0%	—	100.0%

The only section lacking amenities is in rented furnished accommodation where 36% of the units lack full facilities for exclusive use of hot water, fixed bath, and inside W.C.

1971 CENSUS RETURNS — POPULATION — PRESTATYN

	Total Pop. 1961	Pop. 1971	No. of H'holds 1971	Persons per Rm 1971	Absent (on Census Nt.) Private H'holds
Prestatyn ... ..	10,786	14,235	5,615	0.51	300
Wards:					
Meliden ... ..	1,775	2,695	1,050	0.53	55
North East... ..	1,209	1,225	470	0.52	35
North West ...	2,669	4,050	1,665	0.52	115
South East ...	1,744	1,925	775	0.44	25
South West ...	3,389	4,335	1,650	0.52	65

1971 CENSUS

The figures for Flintshire are: —

Population ... ..	172,295
Householders ... ..	58,705
Persons per room ... ..	0.57
Absent private householders ... ..	1,485
County percentage of absent private householders in permanent dwellings ... ..	2.7%
Equivalent Prestatyn figure is... ..	5.4%

This higher local percentage of absent householders reflects the larger number of holiday homes in the town but excludes chalets and caravans.

Regarding density of persons per room, the Prestatyn average of 0.51 persons per room is favourable in relation to County average of 0.57 persons per room.

Breakdown of the figure for density of persons per room in Prestatyn:—



	Total Households	Over 1½ persons per room	Between 1 & 1½ persons per room
Owner occupied ... ..	4,380	5	75
Council owned dwellings ... ..	545	5	40
Rented unfurnished ... ..	480	5	10
Rented furnished... ..	190	5	15

It is reasonable to consider significant overcrowding as more than 1½ persons per room and it would appear that in 1971 5 owner occupied dwellings and 5 Council houses came in this category. Also a further 75 owner occupied dwellings and 40 Council dwellings were moderately overcrowded.

### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF PRESTATYN REGISTRAR GENERALS REPORT

Age last Birthday All Ages	All Persons	Males	Females
	14,515	6,460	8,055
0- 4 ... ..	905	450	460
5- 9 ... ..	1080	550	530
10-14 ... ..	880	480	430
15-19 ... ..	720	365	355
20-24 ... ..	655	335	325
25-29 ... ..	695	310	385
30-34 ... ..	700	340	360
35-39 ... ..	665	350	310
40-44 ... ..	670	305	360
45-49 ... ..	710	320	390
50-54 ... ..	760	340	415
55-59 ... ..	925	410	515
60-64 ... ..	1,150	460	690
65-69 ... ..	1,380	550	830
70-74 ... ..	1,180	465	715
75-79 ... ..	750	270	480
80-84 ... ..	425	130	295
85-89 ... ..	185	40	145
90-94 ... ..	70	15	55
95 and over ... ..	15	5	10

There is a marked excess of females over males, more so than the national average. The number of men and women in the 55 to 75 age groups are more than what would normally be expected based on the population under the age of 55 in the town.

### SLUM CLEARANCE

There is very little property in Prestatyn which falls within the category requiring demolition, that is, properties which cannot be reconstructed at reasonable cost.

### SUPERANNUATION

Four medical examinations were carried out in 1972 on Urban District staff, either for fitness to commence employment or because of absence from work through ill health.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no such establishments in the district.

## INSPECTIONS UNDER FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

The prescribed particulars of inspections carried out during the year are provided in the annexe to this report.

## HISTORIAL REVIEW

With the impending local government reorganisation and the abolition of the post of Medical Officer of Health in 1974, it is an opportune moment to review the history of the local Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health available in the Health Department, which date back to 1908. At that time the population of Prestatyn was 1,930 and Dr. Lloyd Roberts, Medical Officer of Health, states that there was a standardised death rate of 12.4 per 1,000 population, which compares well with the present figure for the town and Flintshire. In his report he refers to the dilapidated state of the houses in Spring Bank, Church Terrace, Corner of High Street and Meliden Road, and he also comments on a picture of some of these houses to be seen in the L. & N.W. railway carriages describing them as "Romantic houses in Prestatyn". This, Dr. Roberts states, is a most unfortunate picture advertising the worst features of the town. The properties concerned should be pulled down forthwith.

At that time an Omnibus Bill was being promoted in Prestatyn to increase the supply of water from Ffynnon Asaph.

In 1911 there was an Official Census, which showed the population of the town was 2,036 and again the general health statistics were good in comparison with other towns and districts of Flintshire and the incidence of infectious diseases was quite low. The Medical Officer also refers to the fact that there was no stable trade or industry in the area and the callings of the inhabitants are very varied. It ranges from "doing nothing" to those who serve them. Many keep and let rooms and lodgings and there is a "sufficient supply of jobbing gardeners". Housing accommodation is generally good and there are very few cases of overcrowding.

A great deal of the comments made by the Medical Officer in those days regarding the industry in the town could well apply today. Refuse was removed from each house at least once a week and, of course, the service is still once weekly today.

In 1913 the Medical Officer referred to the milk supply in the district as being generally satisfactory and the responsibility for supervision of milk supplies at that time was with the District Council. One cow keeper was found absent by death "Jones, Glanaber — his business terminated with him". There was need for far more lime washing in the local dairies.

The Council in that year considered a scheme to provide new sewers for the whole of Prestatyn and in particular relieving the surcharging of the sewers in Victoria Road and Victoria Avenue. This matter has even cropped up in health committees in the past few years.

Urinals for gentlemen in Prestatyn Station were not worthy of a first class station and were akin to those found in rural areas overseas.

In 1915 Dr. Chadwick was Medical Officer as deputy to Dr. Tudor Griffiths, who patriotically left the town to join the Army.

The population of the town had risen to 2,431 with a considerable number of extra military personnel billeted in the town.

There were no deaths in children under one year of age.

At the end of the war the population had risen to 2,706 and the death rate had fallen to 10.96 per 1,000.

The Medical Officer in 1920 makes a strong recommendation that all meat should be inspected before sale to the public and that there is urgent need for a new slaughterhouse in the town. He also urges that all cows should have a tuberculosis test every 12 months, and on reflection it was many years afterwards before it became a compulsory requirement nationally.

In 1921 the Local District Nursing Association was formed and the following year the main drainage scheme was commenced providing new sewers along most of the major roads and streets in Prestatyn.

In 1924 an order was made by the County Authority whereby the Towyn district (in the Parish of Meliden) became part of Prestatyn Urban District Council following a petition by the inhabitants. In the same year consideration was given to the building of an Isolation Hospital on land at Penrhwylyfa in the Parish of Meliden, as it was felt that the arrangements at that time for the care of cases of Infectious Diseases were far from satisfactory. Most of the serious cases were admitted to the Workhouse Hospital at St. Asaph which was run by the St. Asaph Joint Hospital Committee on whose Board Prestatyn had 3 members. This scheme was later abandoned when it was decided to enlarge the hospital at St. Asaph and provide improved transport arrangements in the form of ambulances.

In 1926 the Council acquired a site for a public cemetery in the Parish of Llanasa. This, of course, is now the Coed Bell Cemetery and the present mortuary was constructed at the same time near the old gas works. The Medical Officer goes on to say in his report that there is a great nuisance arising from smoke coming from steam driven vehicles passing through the town.



Considerable extensions to the water works were initiated in 1928 with new trunk mains, etc., at Dyserth. Also at that time the Maternity and Child Welfare services under the control of the County Council commenced weekly clinics at the Town Hall, Rhyl.

In 1929 one case of smallpox occurred in the town, due to a contact with a case on the SS Tuscania, and a public vaccination centre was opened immediately and 1,600 persons were vaccinated within a week.

The population by 1934 had risen to 5,941 with 2,367 inhabited houses, and the official health statistics of the district again compared favourably with those of the surrounding areas in the County. There was a very low death rate and a very low incidence of infectious diseases, only ten cases being reported and only one death of a child under the age of one year.

In 1935 the Council acquired a very fine open space known as Y Ffrith, and in 1937 the Clwyd Catchment Board took active steps to clear the water courses in the district which had become very neglected since the first world war

Slum clearance was commenced in 1938 under the new Slum Clearance Act of 1936, and over 30 houses were dealt with in that year.

The Council up to that time had built 125 houses, most of which were in Dawson Park and the remainder were in Bryn Melyd Road and Cefn-y-Gwrych.

At the end of the war the refuse collection was on a fortnightly basis due to difficulty in obtaining refuse vehicles.

Dr. Tudor Griffiths continued as Medical Officer of Health until 1948, when Dr. Rhydwen took over under a reorganisation scheme until his retirement in 1961.

# CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1972

Madam Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1972 which is likely to be the last such report to the Prestatyn Urban District Council due to Reorganisation.

Copies of the reports go back 64 years and while the earlier editions were very much briefer, they serve as a historical record recording the growth of the town and its changing environmental problems and conditions. In 1900 the population was a mere 1,000 with less than 300 properties. 60 years later the population had increased by 9,000, but in the last 12 years there has been a further increase of 5,000 and the construction of 2,452 dwellings.

The town, ideally situated between the hills and the sea in a favoured rain shadow area of the Welsh Mountains, is likely to continue its expansion due to the influx of retired persons from the inland towns of the North of England and the Midlands. There has been a similar growth in accommodation for the holiday industry, particularly with caravan sites, and the development of the Pontin's Holiday Village in 1971 has increased the accommodation by another 5,000.

In developing areas, demands on the essential services often give rise to conditions where adequate services prove difficult to maintain. In Prestatyn the major foul and surface water sewerage scheme has been completed, together with the new sewerage sea outfall which has relieved the pressure on the existing system which in the past gave rise to surcharging in times of wet weather. The town's water supply from a source to the rear of Dyserth has to be supplemented by a supply from Nant Parc during the summer months, but work is now in progress on a new main to bring water from Glascoed to Dyserth. The refuse collection service has been expanded to cope with the increased volume of refuse by increased productivity, but the refuse disposal site is rapidly nearing completion. The Rhuddlan District Council will, as a matter of priority, have to find alternative facilities.

I was pleased to note in June, the recommendation of the Government's Foods Standard Committee, that all prepacked foods should be date stamped, showing in the case of perishable foods, their shelf life.



The number of private dwellings completed in Prestatyn was the highest for five years, but there was no building of Council dwellings. With only three vacancies occurring in our existing sheltered housing schemes, the demand for this type of accommodation has greatly increased. It is in this sector and that of small units for single persons and middle-aged couples that the Council should give priority consideration for any future building programmes.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee, to Dr. Roberts, Medical Officer of Health, and to fellow officials and staff in other Departments of the Council for their guidance, support and co-operation during the year.

I am, Madam Chairman, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. T. OWEN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Domestic Premises Visited ... ..	420
Other Sites Visited Re Complaints ... ..	161
Surface Water and Watercourses ... ..	15
Holiday Camps, Caravan and Camp Sites ... ..	76
Schools ... ..	31
Public Conveniences ... ..	47
Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..	763
Agricultural Holdings ... ..	1
Factories ... ..	2
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ... ..	149
Civic Amenities ... ..	50
Food Premises ... ..	244
Rodent and Pest Control ... ..	2248
Noise Abatement ... ..	9
Miscellaneous - Sampling ... ..	113
Miscellaneous - General ... ..	294
Interviews ... ..	776
Obstructed Drains ... ..	613

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of Cases Confirmed ... ..	4
Number of Households ... ..	4
Number of Persons Investigated ... ..	35
Number of Visits ... ..	72
Number of Cases Removed to Hospital ... ..	—

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Supermarket and Self Service ... ..	35
Grocers ... ..	29
Greengrocers ... ..	14
Confectioneries and Bakeries ... ..	17
Butchers ... ..	13
Wet Fish ... ..	4
Fried Fish ... ..	5
Catering Premises ... ..	43
Licensed Premises ... ..	48
Mobile Shops and Delivery Vehicles ... ..	8
Miscellaneous ... ..	21

## HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Housing Applicants — Visits and Investigations ... ..	99
Council House — Visits Re Management ... ..	238
Council House — Visits Re Maintenance ... ..	931
Interviews — Applicants and Tenants ... ..	409

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

### Collection

A weekly back door to back door collection service is in operation. The residential areas of the town are divided in half, each served by a domestic refuse collection team. A third team is engaged on the collection of trade refuse, which includes second weekly collections from certain food businesses on request. This team also collects bulky refuse, refuse dumped on vacant sites and from April to October collects refuse from all the caravan sites. A charge is made for "second" collections and in certain cases where bulky refuse is required to be moved.

The mechanical plant consists of two Dennis Paxit III A continuous loading vehicles and a Karrier Bantam. This latter vehicle was purchased in February, 1963, and in view of its age and condition it was necessary to purchase a new collection vehicle so that this vehicle could be removed from regular service. The new vehicle, a Dennis Bulkmaster 50, was brought into use on 6th November, 1972, and was the first to operate in Wales, except for two prototypes in Cardiff. It is designed on an intermittent loading process similar to collection vehicles of more than a decade ago. I anticipate this type of vehicle will gain popularity due to their reduction in noise and reduced maintenance and repair cost compared with the continuous loading vehicles.

Despite a considerable increase in the size of Prestatyn and the ever increasing volume of refuse being produced by the individual householder, only the same number of staff are employed as in 1964. In that year a productivity bonus scheme was introduced. An annual review and increase in the payment has enabled the service to expand with the town without increase in staff.

The collection service ran smoothly except for a period at the end of January when there was excessive sickness. There was also difficulty in maintaining the service in both June and August, due to vehicle breakdowns. In June no suitable vehicle was available for hire in North Wales and even the national hire companies could not assist for several days. Later in June and in August, for several weeks vehicles were hired from other local authorities.

In the latter part of the year it became increasingly difficult for one of the teams to complete their work load, and following a detailed survey of both rounds it was found that the growth of housing estates to the west of the town had added more than 400 properties to one round compared with the other. This increased work load was transferred to the third team.

For the second consecutive year the labour force remained virtually static, with only two resignations. 231 working days were lost due to sickness compared with 131 in 1971. Only one day was lost due to absenteeism and 229 days due to holidays. The total of 461 days represents 12% of the maximum possible working days compared with a loss of 9% in 1971.

### **Paper Sack System**

It had been intended to extend the paper sack system to cover all domestic properties in the town and following protracted negotiations with the men's Union, virtual agreement had been reached in December, 1971. However, when the costs of the revised bonus, together with the soaring cost of paper sacks were added together, plus the fact that sack holders had not proved entirely satisfactory, the Council decided not to proceed with the extension of the Paper Sack Scheme.

### **Disposal**

The Council dispose of all refuse at a controlled tipping site on low lying ground to the west of the town centre, off Fforddisa. One attendant is employed on the tip together with a Bristol Taurus Crawler Loader Shovel. This vehicle, however, developed major troubles during the first week of the year. Due to its age and inadequate size it was decided not to carry out repairs. For the next few months the Council's Weatherall four wheeled loader, together with assistance from hired plant, carried out the work.

In view of the uncertainty of the future for refuse disposal following Reorganisation in Local Government, it was decided to hire on a long term basis an International 125A Crawler Loader. This vehicle proved mechanically unsatisfactory to the Council and uneconomical to the hirers. By November it was known that responsibility for refuse disposal was to remain with the new District Councils in Wales and that this site would remain in operation until at least 1976, the Council therefore decided that there was no alternative than to purchase new plant. The machine chosen was a Fiat FL6 Crawler Loader with 4 in 1 Bucket.

As required by the Civic Amenities Act 1967, free tipping facilities are available for residents at all times. Considerable use is being made of these facilities, particularly at weekends. However, I would appeal to the public not to tip in the hedge at the side of the approach road to the tip, but to tip as directed by notices.



Tip Lane is an unmade track and during dry weather the amount of traffic, and in particular the number of heavy lorries now frequenting the tip, gives rise to a considerable dust nuisance to five bungalows fronting this lane.

Several tip fires occurred during the year. In most cases it is thought children were to blame, though on occasion trespassing scavengers cannot be ruled out. Most fires were dealt with swiftly, sometimes with the assistance of the Fire Brigade. Two fires, one in February and a second in August, ate into the tip and in each case took three days to extinguish completely. The only solution in these cases being to dig out.

Despite notices displayed on the approach road warning that everything disposed of at the Tip becomes the property of the Council, and anyone scavenging or recovering any article is liable to prosecution, the problem of scavengers continued. I was particularly concerned about a group of Prestatyn female residents frequenting the tip and employing their young children to assist with sorting through the refuse. They were interested mostly in clothes, rags and toys. Repeated verbal and written warnings failed to stop the practice and in the end it proved necessary to institute legal proceedings against one of the offenders.

Parents must realise that the Tip is a dangerous place particularly for children. When a tip is on fire there are continual explosions caused by bottles and aerosol cans bursting and yet on one occasion I found six primary school aged children poking sticks into such a fire. Abandoned motor vehicles prove very attractive to children, but are a source of considerable danger, especially their petrol tanks.

The Tip covers a 40 acre site and to surround such an area with child and vandal proof fencing would be a considerable expense.

A six acre section of an older part of the Tip is now being jointly prepared as a playing area by the Council and the Prestatyn Rotary Club. Again I must warn that while this is a much needed and desirable amenity, it will encourage even more young persons to this area and adequate precautions will be necessary to prevent the children wandering on to the current refuse tipping area.

The type of refuse being produced in this area continues to become lighter and bulkier, with the increasing nuisance from light plastic bags blowing around the site. The volume of refuse exceeds the amount of suitable covering material being brought in by building developers, thus preventing full compliance with the recommended Code of Practice for Refuse Disposal on Controlled



Tips. Present day refuse is no longer suitable for tipping on to open land without having been subjected to some form of pre-treatment. The present tips at both Prestatyn and Rhyl have about 3 years life in each case and I forecast that it will prove extremely difficult to obtain planning permission for further sites unless the method of disposal is drastically reviewed. It is one of the problems to which the new District Council of Rhuddlan must give early consideration.

### CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

During the year 17 cases of abandoned vehicles were investigated. In some cases the owners were traced and required to remove the vehicle, but on other occasions the Council, through the duty placed upon it by this Act, had to remove the abandoned vehicle.

### LITTER ACT, 1958

Whilst occasional indiscriminate dumping of refuse has occurred it has not been widespread as in other towns, probably due to the regular refuse collection service and the free tipping facilities available at the conveniently situated refuse tip at all hours of the day, including weekends. However, the practice of dumping garden refuse on vacant plots of land remains a common practice and can give rise to fly and rodent infestations.

### WATER SAMPLING

	Bacterio- logical		Satis- factory		Unsatis- factory
Main Town Supply ... ..	48	...	48	...	—
Swimming Pool (Lido) ... ..	5	...	5	...	—
Swimming Pool (Prestatyn Hol. Camp)	3	...	3	...	—
Paddling Pool (Prestatyn Hol. Camp)	3	...	2	...	1
Swimming Pool (Pontin's) ... ..	13	...	13	...	—
Paddling Pool (Pontin's) ... ..	3	...	3	...	—
Total Samples Taken ... ..	75	...	74	...	1

Bacteriological samples are taken from properties at random throughout the Council's area and of the 48 collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Conwy, all were found to be Class I, Excellent.

Reports of all samples taken from mains supply are passed to the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board for information.

The results of a Chemical Analysis of the town's water supply are given in the Medical Officer's Report.

Thirteen samples of tap water were collected from pre-war properties in the town where lead service pipes may be in existence. The samples were tested for lead content, Very small amounts of lead were found to be present in each sample, but the amount in each case was within the World Health Organisation standard for lead concentration in public water supplies.

### SWIMMING POOLS

There are three heated swimming pools in the district. One is indoors at Pontin's Holiday Camp, while the other two are open air at Prestatyn Holiday Camp and at the Council's Royal Lido. the latter being open to the public from May till September.

Following the closing of Pontin's camp at the end of the holiday season, the swimming pool was re-opened by the Council for the use of the public from October, 1972, to the end of April, 1973. This facility again proved a popular asset to residents and school children in Prestatyn and the surrounding area.

21 samples were collected or analysis from swimming pools and all were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

### FOOD AND DRUG PREMISES

(1) Number of Food Premises in the area, by type of premises:—

Supermarkets and Self-service	8	Sweet Shops	18
Grocers	18	Candy Floss Kiosks	1
Greengrocers	16	Ice Cream Kiosks	4
Confectioners	7	Cinemas	1
Bakeries	6	Schools	6
Restaurants and Snack Bars	15	Homes	7
Butchers	11	Hospitals	1
Fishmongers and Game Dealers	2	Boarding Houses	5
Fried Fish Shops	5	Registered Clubs	7
		Licensed Houses and Hotels	10

Total: 148.

(2) Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Grocers and Self-service	19	Kiosks	6
Restaurants and Snack Bars	16	Fried Fish Shops	5
Sweet Shops	7	Butchers	1
Greengrocers	2	Ice Cream Depot	1

(3) Two hundred and forty four visits were made to food premises and 252 infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found.

The practice of exposing open food on shop forecourts and pavements was brought to an end.

(4) Fried Fish Shops:—

Number of Fried Fish Shops in the District ... 5

These shops were well conducted.

I am pleased to again report that the food traders are continuing their efforts to provide a hygienic service and to improve their premises.

Any premises can still open as a food business so long as they have planning permission or, in some cases, even planning permission is not required. I advocate that it should be a statutory requirement that "Prior Approval" must be obtained from the Health Department before any premises opens as a food business.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTED

All the towns' meat supply is slaughtered at premises outside the district, but from time to time random inspections of the meat are made when exposed for sale in local shops.

Other foods, canned goods, etc., are inspected at times when food shops are visited and when special requests are received.

The following quantity of food was, on inspection, found to be unsound and was condemned. In each case the food was voluntarily surrendered and certificates of unfitness were issued.

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs
Fresh Meat ... ..		3	
Canned Meats ... ..		6	2
Cooked Meat and Meat Products ... ..			17
Other Canned Food ... ..	2	13	73
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown ... ..		11	53
Other Foods ... ..			87
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Total ... ..	3	15	8
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All traders in the town are encouraged to consult this department should they be in any doubt regarding the soundness of any food on their premises.

### FOOD COMPLAINTS

During 1972, 24 complaints of unsound food were received, compared with 17 in 1971 and only 4 in 1970.

Foods affected were as follows:-

Commodity	Home Produced	Foreign Matter			Mould	Other Causes
		Imported				
Milk ... ..	1	...	—	...	—	1
Bread ... ..	4	...	—	...	1	—
Canned Meat ... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Cooked Meat ... ..	1	...	—	...	—	1
Meat Pies ... ..	1	...	—	...	—	—
Fish ... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Fruit ... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Confectionery ... ..	1	...	—	...	2	1
Other Food ... ..	—	...	1	...	2	4
Cheese ... ..	—	...	—	...	3	—
Totals ...	8	...	1	...	8	7

I view with concern this further increase from 17 complaints in 1971 to 24 in 1972, particularly as the complaints brought to the Health Department are considered to represent only a small percentage of the actual number of cases occurring where food has been sold in an unfit state or containing foreign matter.

During the year three firms were prosecuted for selling food not of the quality demanded by the purchaser. One concerned a Cornish pasty containing a piece of electrical wire, another involved a bread roll in which there were rodent droppings and thirdly a nail was found in a loaf of bread. In each case the firms were found guilty and fines of £15, £10 and £30 respectively were imposed.

There were eight cases of mouldy food, three involving processed cheese and two of canned food where air had gained access due to faulty canning.

A particularly interesting case concerned a two inch long lizard found in a can of Italian tomatoes. Not only did the case make headline news in the local press, but there was correspondence published in "The Times" newspaper due to the customer not being satisfied with the action taken by this Council. The complainant considered legal proceedings should have been instituted. However, the offence occurred at the canning factory in Italy which, of course, is outside the jurisdiction of the British Court. Technically the retailer was at fault in having sold this can containing the lizard, but to have prosecuted the retailer would have been unjust and have achieved no purpose.



Concern continued over the freshness of food being sold. In May a check on the codes of three national brands of cakes on sale in ten private shops revealed that in each shop there were cakes on display passed their recommended shelf life. One cake was found to be three months out of date. The Council continued to press for legislation requiring the calendar date-stamping of perishable foods.

The Government Foods Standards Committee met in 1964 to consider the date marking of food and had reported that it was not practical. Last year they were asked to review the position and in June, 1972, this Committee published their report in which their previous decision was reversed and it was now recommended that all pre-packed perishable foods should be date marked. The short life foods should be marked with "SELL BY" followed by a calendar date. Certain specially processed foods such as vacuum packed bacon should be marked with an "OPEN BY" date. Long life foods should show their date of manufacture. It was further recommended that legislation should make dating of food compulsory by 1975. The Committee admitted that their change of mind was influenced by public opinion.

The Council were very pleased with this report and it is noted that many manufacturers are implementing the recommendations now rather than waiting until 1975.

It is hoped that the dating of food will ensure fresh food and put an end to the "sale or return" arrangements that some retailers and van salesmen have operated. However, beware should you find say, an unwrapped pie amongst wrapped pies. It could be a stale one with the evidence removed.

### **Clean Food Poster Competition**

As a means of promoting an awareness of food hygiene amongst young people, the Association of Public Health Inspectors organised a "Clean Food Poster" Competition, open to all schools in the six North Wales Counties.

In the senior age group, the poster entered by Alun Wyn Roberts, of Prestatyn High School, was adjudicated the North Wales national winner after having previously been the Flintshire winner. Another local winner was Geoffrey Fisher, of Bodnant School, who was second in the junior age group in the Flintshire County finals.



## FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in the Prestatyn Urban District Council area during the year ended December 31st, 1972, by the County Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. Roberts, is as follows:—

Description of Article	Nos. Taken	Genuine	Non- Genuine
Milk ... ..	21	19	2
Dairy Produce ... ..	3	3	—
Ice Cream ... ..	3	3	—
Sausages and Meat Products ... ..	7	7	—
Alcoholic Drinks ... ..	4	4	—
Miscellaneous Groceries ... ..	5	5	—
Vegetables and Fruit ... ..	5	5	—
Bread and Confectionery ... ..	6	6	—
Patent Medicines ... ..	3	3	—
	<u>57</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>2</u>

All samples were found to be satisfactory. No evidence of prohibited colouring matter, pesticides or fungicides were found in any foodstuffs.

The two samples of milk reported above as non genuine were found to be samples in which the solids, not fat, were below the presumptive legal standard of 8.5%. There was no evidence of adulteration.

Samples of articles taken under the provisions of the Fertilizer and Feeding Stuff Act 1926, were found to be satisfactory and no evidence was found of excessive contamination of Fruit and Vegetables by residue of fungicides and/or pesticides.

Premises inspected under the provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act were found to be satisfactory.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE A  
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices ... ..	1	49	10
Retail Shops ... ..	4	144	48
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ... ..	—	10	3
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	11	22	23
Fuel Storage Depots ... ..	—	1	—
Total ... ..	16	226	84

TABLE B

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises ... 149

TABLE C  
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED  
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices ... ..	214
Retail Shops ... ..	435
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses ... ..	118
Catering Establishments open to the public ... ..	115
Canteens ... ..	9
Fuel Storage Depots ... ..	5
Total ... ..	896
Total Males ... ..	368
Total Females ... ..	528

## ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	No. of Contraventions found	Section	No. of Contraventions found
4. Cleanliness ... ..	8	15. Eating facilities ... ..	—
5. Overcrowding ... ..	—	16. Floors, passage & stairs ...	7
6. Temperature ... ..	18	17. Fencing exposed parts	—
7. Ventilation ... ..	1	machinery ... ..	—
8. Lighting ... ..	—	18. Young persons -	—
9. Sanitary Conveniences ...	8	machinery ... ..	—
10. Washing facilities ... ..	6	19. Young persons -	—
11. Supply of drinking water	1	machinery ... ..	—
12. Clothing accommodation	—	24. First aid ... ..	14
13. Sitting facilities ... ..	—	Abstract ... ..	23
14. Seats (sedentary w'kers)	—		
		Total ... ..	84

## ACCIDENTS

Two accidents were reported and investigated during the year. One involved strained shoulder muscles when unloding furniture and the other involved a young shop assistant who fell from a small ladder causing bruising to a foot.

It is a requirement of this legislation that all accidents occuring on registered premises, whether fatal or where the employee is disabled for more than three days from his usual work, must be notified to the local authority.

## LICENSED PREMISES

All premises requiring a Magistrate's Licence were inspected and a report was presented to the Licensing Justices at the Brewster Sessions held in February.

The premises inspected were as follows:-

Licensed Premises ... ..	10
Clubs ... ..	7
Licensed Restaurants, Guest Houses ... ..	4
Cinema ... ..	1

Wash hand basins have now been provided behind bars in all clubs as well as Public houses. The standard of cleanliness and and compliance with Food Hygiene Regulations was generally good though the condition of the cellars and bottle stores in seven of the ten licenced premises were not satisfactory.

**SHOPS ACT, 1950**

This Act controls the hours of opening of shops which varies according to the items sold .

At holiday resorts facilities are available for Councils to make Orders relating to Sunday trading and the weekly half holiday.

In April, the Council made an Order allowing retail shops in the North-west, North-east and Meliden Wards to be open for the serving of customers for the sale of items specified in Column 1 below between the hours stated in Column 2:—

Column 1	Column 2
(a) Any article required for the purpose of bathing or fishing ... ..	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(b) Photographic requisites ... ..	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(c) Toys, Souvenirs and Fancy Goods ...	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(d) Books, Stationery, Photographs, Reproductions and Postcards ... ..	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(e) Any article of food except fried fish and chips ... ..	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(f) Fried Fish and Chips ... ..	Between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

# **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES**

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	2	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities ...	44	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	46	2	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—			
(a) insufficient ... ..	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ... ..	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	—	—	—
Total ... ..	—	—	—



**PART VIII OF THE ACT: OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)**

Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (2).

Wearing Apparel-makers, etc. ... .. 1

**RODENT AND PEST CONTROL**

This service is carried out on a part-time basis by the Health Department's General Assistant.

The number of complaints of rats was 200 which was an increase on 1971's figure of 166, but still well below the 1970 total of 266. There were increases in the reports of mice from 76 in 1971 to 95. 62 other premises were treated for pests which included 37 requests for assistance to deal with wasps nests which were being a nuisance to householders.

**Number of Premises treated**

	Rats		Mice		Pests
Private Housees ... ..	130	...	50	...	37
Council Houses ... ..	12	...	13	...	14
Business Premises ... ..	26	...	29	...	10
Other Sites ... ..	30	...	2	...	1
Agricultural Premises ... ..	2	...	1	...	—

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

The million pound phase 1 foul and surface water scheme, together with a new sewerage sea out -fall, much of which came into operation during 1971, was finally completed in 1972. Phase 11 which includes surface water sewers to serve Dyserth Bay Estate, parts of Meliden and the Princes Avenue area was in the design stage. The Meliden Sewerage Works was still in operation, but investigations were in progress to establish the necessary alterations required to sewers in the area so that these works can be taken out of comission.

The only serious surcharge problem occured on several occasions following rain in the Meliden Road area where several householders' cellers were flooded. The sewer was examined and cleared of a considerable quantity of foreign matter and there has since been no further trouble.

At last the number of demands on the drain clearing service, which has been increasing at an alarming rate during the 1960's, has levelled out. In 1972 there were 613 compared with 609 in 1971 and 597 in 1970.

Whilst some of the blockages are beyond the control of the householder, many are due to misuse of the drains. Obstructions are frequently found to be caused by sanitary towels, toys, solid matters such as wood and stones, newspaper, excessive grease and in particular disposable nappies. Drains are not designed for those items and I request that the public show far greater care in the use of their drains. The Council have resolved to charge for this service where necessary and this threat does appear to have had the desired effect upon several householders who were regularly calling upon the service.

## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The licensed sites within the area are as follows :—

### Caravan Sites and Number of Caravans Permitted.

Bourne Leisure Park, Bastion Road ... ..	602
Presthaven Sands ... ..	280
Prestatyn Holiday Camp ... ..	201
Tan-y-Don Camp ... ..	68
Plas Deva Caravan Camp ... ..	55
Pen-y-Ffrith Caravan Camp ... ..	50
Morfa Du Caravan Camp ... ..	25
White House Camp ... ..	22
Midnant Farm Caravan Site ... ..	20
Plas Morfa Caravan Site ... ..	11
"Newlyn," Victoria Road West ... ..	3
Ironmonger's Shop, Meliden ... ..	1
"Y Nyth", Plas Newydd Drive ... ..	1
"Brookdale", Cefn-y-Gwrych ... ..	1
	<hr/>
	1,340

All caravan site operators must be in possession of a Site Licence issued by the Local Authority and comply with a list of conditions laid down by the Local Authority. These conditions are made in the interest of the health and welfare of the caravaners

The sites were inspected from time to time and most of the contraventions of the previous year had now been rectified. Each site is well conducted and maintained and the practice of sub-letting, a common feature in many districts in North Wales, is openly practiced on only one site in Prestatyn.

There were no variation of licences during the year, but one site secured permission to increase the number of caravans from 68 to 85 due to the Minister of State at the Welsh Office allowing an appeal against the Planning Departments refusal to permit an increase.

## CAMPING SITES.

Being a holiday resort, tent and towing caravan owners are attracted to the area, but on arrival find that there are virtually no facilities for them. Some caravan sites do reserve a few standings for touring vans, but these fail to meet the demand.

A camping site to the east of the town centre, which enjoys a "long-user rights" under Town and Country Planning Acts, is filled to capacity during the latter half of July and August. Negotiations have been in progress with the Site Operator to improve the present sanitary arrangements, which whilst kept clean, consist of chemical closets and inadequate washing facilities. Work is now in progress on the construction of a large toilet block containing water closets, wash basins, showers, hot and cold water. Drains have already been laid to connect these facilities to the sewer.

For years an organised Church Lads' Brigade camp has been using two fields to the west of Ffordd Penrhwyfya. The weekly camps have been well conducted but the sanitary, drainage and cooking facilities have given rise to serious complaint. This summer there has been a great improvement following work carried out during the winter. Drains have now been laid to a sump from where the sewage is pumped into the local authority's sewer. New cookhouses have been erected with much improved equipment. It is now hoped that money will shortly be available for the organisers of this camp to provide ablution blocks.

The much needed legislation to control camping sites is still awaited. Camping is a cheap form of family holiday and with more leisure time, campers from industrial areas no longer restrict visits to the countryside to their 7 or 14 days annual holiday.

To legislate one set of standards may not be in the interest of campers. The required facilities would be a minimum standard and it is likely that site operators would be reluctant to improve facilities beyond the minimum requirements. However, if minimum standards were set high to bring camping sites in line with those in some of the European Countries, then resulting higher charges would lead to some campers being discouraged from using official sites and leading to an increase in illegal camping. I would advocate the grading of camps dependant on facilities provided. An operator would receive a Grade 1 category licence upon compliance with the basic minimum standards. He would have the incentive to improve facilities for which he would receive a higher grading and be able to increase his charges. Four grades would be adequate. Camping facilities would then be available for all types of campers. The discerning camper who was prepared to pay would have the choice of top grade camps equal to the best in Europe, while the camper wanting cheapness would at least be assured of facilities complying with the minimum conditions appertaining to the health and welfare of the campers.



## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

With the provision of another "mobile" toilet at the Ffrith, near Earlswood Avenue, there are now eleven public conveniences in the town. These are situated at the Ffrith (three), Royal Lido, Barkby Beach, Coronation Gardens, Bus Station, Municipal Offices Car Park, Pendre Gardens, Hillside and Meliden.

Public conveniences are traditional targets for the vandals. Vandalism has occurred in our conveniences but compared with reports from other towns it has been of a minor nature, particularly bearing in mind that the conveniences are unattended and remain open 24 hours a day. Again, efforts to remove graffiti have proved a greater problem during the year.

The district is well served by public conveniences except in the rapidly developing area to the west of the town between Meliden and the Ffrith.

## HOUSING

### PRIVATE

The demand for both old and new property exceeds the numbers available. At times estate agents had virtually no properties to offer prospective purchasers, houses often being sold without the necessity of advertising. Nationally there was a similar shortage and the value of houses soared. In Prestatyn these increases were above the national average with the majority of properties increasing in value by more than 50%.

New housing estates were commenced in Bastion Gardens, Penny-Parc, Beverley Drive and The Meadows while existing development continued at Marine Park Estate, Dyserth Bay, Clwyd Court, Roundwood and numerous individual plots were developed.

A total of 170 private dwellings were completed which was the highest figure since 1967 despite the Building Workers strike.

### COUNCIL HOUSING

No additional Council housing was constructed and the housing stock thus remained unaltered.



On 31st December, 1972 the number of Council dwellings was as follows:—

	Prewar	Postwar	Total
Number of 4 bedroomed houses ... ..	—	4	4
Number of 3 bedroomed houses ... ..	79	328	407
Number of 2 bedroomed houses ... ..	46	14	60
Number of 2 bedroomed flats ... ..	4	8	12
Number of 1 bedroomed flats ... ..	7	9	16
Warden Controlled Sheltered Accommodation.			
Number of 2 bedroomed bungalows ... ..	—	14	14
Number of 1 bedroomed bungalows ... ..	—	18	18
Number of 2 bedroomed flats ... ..	—	8	8
Number of 1 bedroomed flats ... ..	—	40	40
Total	136	443	579

## HOUSE LETTINGS

New tenancies commenced during the year as follows:—

Prestatyn Houses Re-Lets ... ..	14
Prestatyn Flats Re-Let ... ..	1
Prestatyn Elderly Persons' Re-Let ... ..	1
Meliden Houses Re-Let ... ..	6
Meliden Elderly Persons' Re-Let ... ..	1

Transfers granted:—

Prestatyn Houses ... ..	4
Meliden Houses ... ..	2
Prestatyn Elderly Persons' ... ..	1
Mutual Exchanges within the District ... ..	1
Mutual Exchanges to outside District ... ..	1
Total ... ..	32

There were only 23 re-lets during the year compared with 47 in 1971 in which year there had also been a further 41 new tenancies due to the building of new houses and bungalows in Meliden.

## Housing Applicants

In July a revised housing register for General Needs was compiled containing the following number of applicants:—

Residents and H.M. Forces ... ..	89
Non Residents ... ..	18

This total rose to 135 by December of which 61 were for single or two adults only.

At the end of the year a list of elderly persons wishing to be considered for retired persons' flats and bungalows was in the process of being compiled. This register when published, contained the following number of applicants:—

Applicants in tenanted accommodation ... ..	79
Applicants who are owner occupiers ... ..	53
Applicants who are non-residents ... ..	14
Tenants of Council houses wishing to transfer ... ..	20
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>166</b>

During the twelve months, only three elderly persons' flats became available for reletting which has resulted in several persons in urgent need of this type of accommodation not being able to be accommodated. Prestatyn is a retirement area and it is in this sector that there is the greatest demand for accommodation.

The three Wardens employed by the Council to attend to the tenants of the four groups of elderly persons' flats and bungalows do excellent work and are true "friends in need" to our elderly tenants.

Future building programmes must cater for more sheltered units of accommodation for the elderly and for small units to accommodate middle-aged couples and single persons for whom there is very little private rented accommodation in Prestatyn.

In an effort to promote a greater interest in their gardens more than 500 tenants were circulated to invite them to participate in a "Well Kept Garden Competition". There were to be cups and prize money. Only 28 tenants indicated their desire to enter the competition which was cancelled due to the lack of support.

A temporary Clerk of Works was employed to inspect all houses to ascertain their state of repair and what improvements were required.

As a result several small improvement schemes were carried out which included the waterproofing of 180 outhouse roofs, repairs to 246 chimney stacks and roofs, replacement of metal windowframes in Dawson Park, provision of modern windows to prewar houses in Carodoc Road and Isfryn Road, the replacement of internal coalhouses (those leading off the kitchens) with coalbunkers, the provision of water closets in five bathrooms in Dawson Park, the removal of larders to increase kitchen area and the enclosing of staircases leading off living rooms in Isfryn Road. The pace of the housing repair programme was also increased with particular

emphasis on repairs to external woodwork. Considerable wood rot has been found in windowframes of postwar houses built in the 1950's.

Car parking is an increasing problem on our housing estates particularly in Fford Tynewydd and Bryn Rhosyn. The road widths were designed at the time when it was never envisaged that so many householders would have motor vehicles. The problem is particularly acute in South Avenue where there are now more cars than available road frontage resulting in some tenants parking on grass verges.

### **Housing Act 1957**

The district has no areas of slum property and Clearance Areas and Programmes are not required. From time to time it becomes necessary to deal with individual properties which are unfit and cannot be made fit at reasonable expense.

During 1972 the following individual Order was made:—

Demolition Order — “The Chalet”, 192, Victoria Road.

### **Housing Act 1969 — Improvement Grants**

The Council received 5 applications during the year and approved the making of grants in 2 of the cases, one for £1,087, and the other £587.

Five applications for Qualification Certificates were received. All were held in abeyance to allow the landlords the opportunity to remedy defects.

### **NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960**

Three complaints were received and investigated. All were abated by informal action.

### **SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964**

Only one dealer remains registered with the Council.

### **ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963**

There are no licenced premises in the town.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

One application was received and licence issued.

## CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN 1972

Month	Means °C		TEMPERATURE IN °C		SUNSHINE IN HOURS		RAINFALL IN MM.	
	Max.	Mins.	Highest	Lowest	Longest	Total	Maximum	Total
January	07.1	02.7	12.8 (11th)	-6.7 (31st)	7.0 (31st)	45.3	12.6 (18th)	45.2
February	07.6	02.9	10.9 (26th)	-3.6 (1st)	7.5 (4th)	61.7	9.2 (8th)	44.2
March	10.0	03.7	18.3 (19th)	-1.0 (13th)	10.4 (21st)	132.4	19.2 (31st)	65.0
April	11.1	06.1	16.3 (1st)	1.5 (21st)	11.8 (25th)	132.1	10.0 (28th)	48.8
May	14.0	07.9	17.8 (20th)	4.1 (12th)	13.3 (16th)	160.6	11.1 (6th)	43.2
June	14.8	08.9	17.9 (30th)	3.9 (3rd)	12.4 (12th)	148.0	8.6 (4th)	60.4
July	18.6	12.1	26.3 (18th)	8.8 (12th)	14.0 (17th)	171.4	30.0 (31st)	109.1
August	17.6	12.0	20.9 (6th)	8.2 (11th)	12.6 (21st)	156.5	15.7 (1st)	34.5
September	15.5	08.8	20.4 (1st)	3.3 (26th)	10.0 (15th)	150.7	23.4 (8th)	45.2
October	14.6	08.1	20.2 (8th)	3.8 (4th)	9.9 (4th)	97.0	5.8 (9th)	17.7
November	10.4	05.2	17.2 (6th)	-0.2 (18th)	7.3 (15th)	59.1	18.2 (12th)	113.7
December	09.9	04.1	14.9 (14th)	-1.0 (24th)	3.1 (3rd)	13.0	9.1 (6th)	49.0
TOTALS	11.8	06.9				1327.8		676.8
					Daily Rate	3.6	Inches	27.04









